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[Executive summary]

ONTARIO MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
INDUSTRIAL WASTE SITE IDENTIFICATION STUDY  
PART I - SITE INVESTIGATIONS  
WEST-CENTRAL REGION  
FINAL REPORT  
VOLUME 1

JANUARY 1981

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as represented by the Minister of the Environment

Submitted to:

The Joint Steering Committee  
c/o The Waste Management Branch  
Ministry of the Environment  
135 St. Clair Ave. West  
Toronto, Ontario



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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This study was conducted for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. For the study, twenty-five industrial waste disposal sites were investigated to determine the hazard of each site to public safety and to the environment. Field work was undertaken between late October and early December, 1980. In general, the sites examined are small, are no longer used, and cause little or no readily detectable impairment of surface water or groundwater quality beyond their boundaries. Most waste materials consist of inorganic components, and have no methane generating capability. Where potential hazards were identified, further work was not undertaken because of the limited amount of time and budget available and because more detailed investigation was not included in the Terms of Reference for the study.

Thirteen sites are judged to have no significant environmental impacts:

Site No. 3	Shawinigan Chemical (St. Catharines)
Site No. 4	General Motors of Canada (St. Catharines)
Site No. 5	Beaver Wood Fibre (Thorold)
Site No. 6	Norton Co. (Niagara Falls)
Site No. 7	Canadian Carborundum (Niagara Falls)
Site No. 8	Niagara Metals (Niagara Falls)
Site No. 13	Stelco (Welland Tube Works)
Site No. 16	Dominion Tack and Nail (Cambridge)
Site No. 19	Province of Ontario (Cambridge)
Site No. 20	Road 32 Holdings (Guelph Twp.)
Site No. 22	Peplow Transport (Nichol Twp.)
Site No. 23	Bell Thread (Arthur)
Site No. 24	Allen Bradley (Cambridge)

Site Nos. 19 and 20 appear to pose no water or methane related problems; however, plant uptake of heavy metals (for example) which may occur in the soils as a result of previous waste disposal operations should be investigated prior to the cultivation of food crops.

Significant methane or combustible gas generation was noted at four sites:

Site No. 1	R. Brown Farm (Ancaster)
Site No. 12	Domtar Fine Papers (St. Catharines)
Site No. 14	Welland Iron and Brass (Welland)
Site No. 18	D. McDonald Farm (Puslinch Twp.)

No immediate hazard is considered to exist at these sites, and a general recommendation is made that access to these sites be restricted because of gas generation and other considerations. Minor combustible gas generation is occurring at Site No. 21, Peplow Transport (Guelph), and a recommendation is made to test an adjacent structure for gas when the ground surface is frozen.

Nine sites require further water sampling and analysis to more fully evaluate their potential environmental impact:

Site No. 1	R. Brown Farm (Ancaster)
Site No. 2	Cyanamid Canada (Welland Plant)
Site No. 9	Cyanamid Canada (Niagara Falls Plant)
Site No. 10	Fleet Industries (Fort Erie)
Site No. 11	Coniagas Reduction (Thorold)
Site No. 15	Butler Metal (Cambridge)
Site No. 17	Telephone City Gravel (Aberfoyle Pit)
Site No. 18	D. McDonald Farm (Puslinch Twp.)
Site No. 21	Peplow Transport (Guelph)

Although water supplies in the general areas of these sites do not appear to be deleteriously affected at present, the nature of the waste materials, the circumstances of disposal or the results of preliminary sampling require that further investigation be undertaken.

At Site No. 25, the H. Main Farm in Flamborough Twp., no significant impairment of local surface waters or groundwaters was detected. The site, however, is still being used for the spreading of sewage sludges, and it is recommended that an alternative area be selected.

A recommendation common to most sites is that the waste location be recorded on the property deed to ensure that the existence of the site and its contents is known to future owners.

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